

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The turret punch press according to claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein a chute is connected to the work sheet outlet of said lower turret.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A turret punch press ~~according to claim 1 or claim 2,~~  
comprising:

an upper turret supporting a plurality of punch tools;

a lower turret supporting a plurality of die tools corresponding to the punch tools,

the lower turret having a work sheet outlet positioned inside the lower turret; and

a punch driving mechanism operatively connected to the punch tools for driving the  
punch tools of the upper turret;

wherein a small article work sheet is cut off from a material work sheet which has been  
fed into the turret punch press in a punch process so that the small article work sheet is located  
above the work sheet outlet in the lower turret and then is discharged through the work sheet  
outlet;

wherein an opening and closing plate, freely opening and closing, for covering said work sheet outlet, is employed in said lower turret so that an upper surface of the opening and closing

plate, when said plate is closed, is approximately even in height with an upper surface of the lower turret.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The turret punch press according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 7, wherein a chute is connected to the work sheet of said lower turret.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~The A turret punch press according to claim 6~~ comprising:  
a main body frame supporting an upper turret and a lower turret;  
the upper turret supporting a plurality of punch tools;  
the lower turret, positioned below the upper turret, supporting a plurality of die tools  
corresponding to the punch tools, the lower turret having a work sheet outlet positioned inside  
the lower turret between the plurality of die tools and the center of the lower turret; and  
a punch driving mechanism operatively connected to the punch tools for driving the  
punch tools of the upper turret;  
wherein a small article work sheet is cut off from a material work sheet which has been  
fed into the turret punch press in a punch process so that the small article work sheet is located  
above the work sheet outlet in the lower turret and then is discharged through the work sheet  
outlet;

wherein a opening and closing plate, connected to an opening and closing drive source,  
covers an upper opening of the work sheet outlet; and

wherein an upper surface of the opening and closing plate, when said plate is closed, is  
approximately even in height with an upper surface of the lower turret.